

Remarks

The application contains claims 1-15, 21 and withdrawn claims 19 and 20.

Applicants respectfully submit the following additions to augment the arguments presented in the Amendment After Final originally filed December 7, 2009 the entry of which is petitioned in the present RCE. The additional remarks relate to the rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 15, 17, and 21 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Lin US 6,153,503 in view of Bauer, US 6,548,121 and the rejection of claims 7, 14 and 16 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Lin US 6,153,503 in view of Bauer, US 6,548,121 and Kohler US 6,251,963.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the comments included with the Advisory Action regarding said rejections wherein he objects to Applicants' seeming equation of "strongly adherent" and "permanent". In making the rejection in the Action of October 7, 2009, it is stated that it would be obvious to combine Lin, which provides no teaching about the composition of the various organic layers and is completely silent regarding the initial plasma, corona or flame treatment, with Bauer, US 6,548,121 to arrive at the steps of the instant invention.

Applicants respectfully note that for an invention to be obvious over a combination of references, the whole of the references must be considered. The MPEP states that an "as a whole assessment" of the art requires a showing that it would have been obvious for one, when confronted by the problems addressed by the inventor, to have selected the elements of the claimed invention based on what was clearly known or disclosed at the time.

Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would not find or be directed to the instant invention when considering the whole of Lin and Bauer. Applicants believe that it is clear that both the instant disclosure and that of Bauer are directed to solve the problem of improving the adherence of the coating to the substrate, in the present case a metal coating. The instant method is similar to that of Bauer wherein an organic primer layer is formed upon which a metal is deposited. Surprisingly it was found that incorporating an additional step in the Bauer process provided unexpected improvements in adherence.

Lin discloses the preparation of a generic, patterned photo-resist layer upon which a metal is deposited. The Action equates the photo-resist layer of Lin with the organic primer layer of the instant invention and concludes that combining the steps involved in the formation of the metal spluttered photo-resist layer of Lin with the steps of Bauer would provide the instant invention. The Action further concludes that the photo-resist layer is "strongly adherent" enough for the purposes of Lin.

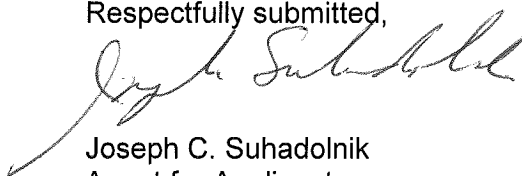
However, Applicants respectfully aver that it is clear that the photo-resist layer of Lin is prepared specifically to be easily removed after the metal is deposited. Applicants respectfully submit that one "confronted by the problems addressed by the inventor", specifically a coating with improved adherence, would find it obvious to selected the elements of an invention specifically directed at the opposite result. Applicants submit that without the benefit of the results of the instant invention there is no suggestion in the art that the combination of Lin with Bauer in the manner described in the Action would succeed in providing improved adherence. Applicants therefore maintain that the improvements of the instant invention would be considered unexpected results even if such a combination was contemplated.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 USC 103(a) over Lin US 6,153,503 in view of Bauer and Kohler US 6,251,963 are addressed and are overcome and kindly ask that the rejections be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections are addressed and are overcome and kindly ask that they be withdrawn and claims 1-15, 21 be found allowable. Applicants also kindly ask that upon finding said claims allowable, the Examiner rejoin claims 19 and 20 as directed to a novel product produced by the novel processes of claim 1 and 2 and find claims 19 and 20 also allowable.

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Respectfully submitted,



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